DETAILED ACTION

Claim Status

1. Claims 9-13 and 25-41 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. Regarding claims 32-36, claim 32 recites a "computer-readable storage medium". In the absence of any modifying disclosure of this limitation in the specification, the examiner interprets term 'computer-readable storage medium' as limited to statutory embodiments only, such that the claims clearly fall under the terms of 35 U.S.C. 101.

3. Regarding claims 37-41, claim 37 recites a "computer processor" and "memory". In the absence of any modifying disclosure of this limitation in the specification, the examiner interprets term 'computer processor' and "memory" as limited to statutory embodiments only, such that the claims clearly fall under the terms of 35 U.S.C. 101.

Examiner's Amendment

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

5.   Authorization for an examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr.
Gero McClellan (Reg. 44,227) on October 29, 2009.

In the specifications:

Please replace paragraph 0026 with paragraph 0026 below:

Paragraph 0026:

One embodiment of the invention is implemented as a program product for use with a computer
system such as, for example, the enterprise system 100 shown in FIG. 1 and described below.
The program(s) of the program product defines functions of the embodiments (including the
methods described herein) and can be contained on a variety of ~~signal-bearing~~ computer-readable
medium ~~media~~. Illustrative ~~signal-bearing media~~ computer-readable mediums include, but are
not limited to: (i) information permanently stored on non-writable storage media (e.g., read-only
memory devices within a computer such as CD-ROM disks readable by a CD-ROM drive);(ii)
alterable information stored on writable storage media (e.g., floppy disks within a diskette drive
or hard-disk drive); or (iii) information conveyed to a computer by a communications medium,
such as through a computer or telephone network, including wireless communications. The
latter embodiment specifically includes information downloaded from the Internet and other
networks. Such computer-readable mediums ~~signal-bearing media~~, when carrying computer-
readable instructions that direct the functions of the present invention, represent embodiments of
the present invention. A computer-readable storage mediums include CD-ROM disks readable
by a CD-ROM drive and storage media (e.g., floppy disks within a diskette drive or hard-disk
drive).

In the claims:

Please replace all prior claims with the claims below:

9. (Currently Amended)

A method for managing annotations for multiple versions of documents, the method comprising:

selecting one or more annotation versioning policies dictating how annotations made for a current version of a document are carried forward by operation of one or more computer processors to a subsequent version of the document, wherein the subsequent version of the document includes one or more revisions to [[substantive]] contents of the current version of the document, and wherein carrying the annotations forward comprises:

storing [[or updating]], for the subsequent version of the document, an annotation record comprising:

(i) an annotation of the annotations made for the current version of the document;

(ii) an index that identifies positions of the annotations in the subsequent version of the document;

(iii) a change detection value for detecting revisions to: (A) the subsequent version of the document or (B) an annotated portion of the subsequent version of the document, corresponding to the annotation; and

(iv) a versioning policy attribute <u>referencing one of the selected annotation versioning policies dictating how annotations made for the current version of the document are carried forward to one or more subsequent versions of the document</u>; and

allowing creators of annotations for the current version of the document to select one or more of the annotation versioning policies to dictate how the annotations <u>made for a current version of a document</u> are carried forward to <u>one or more</u> subsequent versions of the document<u>;</u>

<u>determining, by operation of one or more computer processors, whether the annotations in the current version of the document are to be carried forward to the subsequent version of the document; and</u>

<u>upon determining that the annotations are to be carried forward, carrying the annotations forward to the subsequent version of the document.</u>

10. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the annotation versioning policies dictates that annotations made for a current version<u> of a document</u> will not be carried forward to subsequent versions of the document.

11. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 9, wherein the one or more annotation versioning policies selected are [[carried forward]]<u>applied</u> [[to]]<u>at</u> the document level, to all annotations created for a document.

12. (previously presented)

The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the annotation versioning policies dictates that an annotation created for a current version of a document will be carried forward to subsequent versions of the document.

13. (previously presented)

The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the annotation versioning policies dictates that an authorized user must validate an annotation created for a current version of a document before the annotation is carried forward to subsequent versions of the document.

14-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended)

A method for managing annotations for multiple versions of documents, the method comprising:

defining a set of available annotation policies, each dictating how an annotation created for a current version of a document are carried forward by operation of one or more computer processors to one or more subsequent versions of the document, wherein each subsequent version of the document includes one or more revisions to [[substantive]] contents of the current version of the document, and wherein carrying the annotation forward comprises:

storing [[or updating]], for the subsequent version of the document, an annotation record comprising:

(i) the annotation created for the current version of the document;

(ii) an index that identifies positions of the annotations in the subsequent version of the document;

(iii) a change detection value for detecting revisions to: (A) the subsequent version of the document or (B) a corresponding annotated portion of the subsequent version of the document; and

(iv) a versioning policy attribute referencing one of the defined set of annotation policies dictating how annotations made for the current version of the document are carried forward to one or more subsequent versions of the document; and

providing an interface, by operation of the one or more computer processors, allowing a user to select one or more of the available annotation policies that dictate how an annotation created for a current version of a document are carried forward to one or more subsequent versions of the document[[to be carried forward, by operation of the one or more computer processors, to the annotation]];

[[receiving the current version of the document;]]

determining, by operation of one or more computer processors, whether the annotations in the current version of the document are to be carried forward to the subsequent version of the document; and

upon determining that the annotations are to be carried forward, carrying the annotations forward to the subsequent version of the document.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein defining a set of available annotation

policies comprises associating one or more annotation policies for use with annotations made for a certain document type[[type of document]].

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the annotation policies provided to the user in the interface is determined[[,]] at least in part[[,]] on a credential of the user.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the annotation policies provided to the user in the interface is determined[[,]] at least in part[[,]] on a document type[[a type of document]] associated with the annotation.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein defining a set of available annotation policies comprises defining the set of available annotation policies by an administrator, wherein the administrator and the user are different entities.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the annotation versioning policies dictates that an annotation created for a current version of a document and carried forward to a subsequent version of the document includes a marker indicating that the annotation in the subsequent version of the document is [[unvalidated]]unverified.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the marker is included in the annotation in the subsequent version of the document until an authorized user verifies

[[validates]] the annotation created for the current version of the document.

32. (Currently Amended)

A computer-readable storage medium containing a program which, when executed by a processor, performs an operation for managing annotations for multiple versions of documents, the operation comprising:

defining a set of available annotation policies, each dictating how an annotation created for a current version of a document are carried forward by operation of one or more computer processors to one or more subsequent versions of the document, wherein each subsequent version of the document includes one or more revisions to [[substantive]] contents of the current version of the document, and wherein carrying the annotation forward comprises:

storing [[or updating]], for the subsequent version of the document, an annotation record comprising:

(i) the annotation created for the current version of the document;

(ii) an index that identifies positions of the annotations in the subsequent version of the document;

(iii) a change detection value for detecting revisions to: (A) the subsequent version of the document or (B) a corresponding annotated portion of the subsequent version of the document; and

(iv) a versioning policy attribute referencing one of the defined set of annotation policies dictating how annotations made for the current version of the document are carried forward to one or more subsequent versions of the document; and

providing an interface, by operation of one or more computer processors, allowing a user to select one or more of the available annotation policies that dictate how an annotation created for a current version of a document are carried forward to one or more subsequent versions of the document[[to be carried forward to the annotation]];

[[receiving the current version of the document;]]

determining, by operation of one or more computer processors, whether the annotations in the current version of the document are to be carried forward to the subsequent version of the document; and

upon determining that the annotations are to be carried forward, carrying the annotations forward to the subsequent version of the document.

33. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein defining a set of available annotation policies comprises associating one or more annotation policies for use with annotations made for a certain document type[[type of document]].

34. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the annotation policies provided to the user in the interface is determined[[,]] at least in part[[,]] on a credential of the user.

35. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 34, wherein the annotation policies provided to the user in the interface is determined[[,]] at least in part[[,]] on [[a type of document]] a document type associated with the annotation.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the set
of available annotation policies is defined based on user input from an administrator, wherein the
administrator and the user are different entities.

37. (Currently Amended)

A system[[,]] comprising:

      a computer processor; and

      a memory containing a program, which when executed by the computer processor is
configured to perform an operation for compensating for managing annotations for multiple
versions of documents, the operation comprising:

      defining a set of available annotation policies, each dictating how an annotation created
for a current version of a document are carried forward to one or more subsequent versions of the
document, wherein each subsequent version of the document includes one or more revisions to
[[substantive]] contents of the current version of the document, and wherein carrying the
annotation forward comprises:

      storing [[or updating]], for the subsequent version of the document, an annotation record
comprising:

            (i) the annotation created for the current version of the document;

            (ii) an index that identifies positions of the annotations in the subsequent version
of the document;

(iii) a change detection value for detecting revisions to: (A) the subsequent version of the document or (B) a corresponding annotated portion of the subsequent version of the document; and

(iv) a versioning policy attribute referencing one of the defined set of annotation policies dictating how annotations made for the current version of the document are carried forward to one or more subsequent versions of the document; and

providing an interface allowing a user to select one or more of the available annotation policies that dictate how an annotation created for a current version of a document are carried forward to one or more subsequent versions of the document[[to be carried forward to the annotation]];

[[receiving the current version of the document;]]

determining, by operation of one or more computer processors, whether the annotations in the current version of the document are to be carried forward to the subsequent version of the document; and

upon determining that the annotations are to be carried forward, carrying the annotations forward to the subsequent version of the document.

38. (Currently amended) The system of claim 37, wherein defining a set of available annotation policies comprises associating one or more annotation policies for use with annotations made for a certain document type[[type of document]].

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the annotation policies provided to the user in the interface is determined[[,]] at least in part[[,]] on a credential of the user.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the annotation policies provided to the user in the interface is determined[[,]] at least in part[[,]] on a document type [[a type of document]] associated with the annotation.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the set of available annotation policies is defined based on user input from an administrator, wherein the administrator and the user are different entities.

Allowable Subject Matter

8.   Claims 9-13 and 25-41 are allowed.

9.   The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

        With respect to the independent claim 9, the prior art of record, single or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the step of: "selecting one or more annotation versioning policies dictating how annotations made for a current version of a document are carried forward by operation of one or more computer processors to a subsequent version of the document, wherein the subsequent version of the document includes one or more revisions to contents of the current

version of the document, and wherein carrying the annotations forward comprises: storing, for

the subsequent version of the document, an annotation record comprising: (i) an annotation of

the annotations made for the current version of the document; (ii) an index that identifies

positions of the annotations in the subsequent version of the document; (iii) a change detection

value for detecting revisions to: (A) the subsequent version of the document or (B) an annotated

portion of the subsequent version of the document, corresponding to the annotation; and (iv) a

versioning policy attribute referencing one of the selected annotation versioning policies

dictating how annotations made for the current version of the document are carried forward to

one or more subsequent versions of the document; and determining, by operation of one or more

computer processors, whether the annotations in the current version of the document are to be

carried forward to the subsequent version of the document; and upon determining that the

annotations are to be carried forward, carrying the annotations forward to the subsequent version

of the document" in combination with the other claimed limitations.   Dependent claims to claim

9 are allowed for being dependent to an allowed claim.

Similar with claim 9, with respect to the independent claim 25, the prior art of record,

single or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the step of: "defining a set of available

annotation policies, each dictating how an annotation created for a current version of a document

are carried forward by operation of one or more computer processors to one or more subsequent

versions of the document, wherein each subsequent version of the document includes one or

more revisions to contents of the current version of the document, and wherein carrying the

annotation forward comprises: storing, for the subsequent version of the document, an annotation

record comprising: (i) the annotation created for the current version of the document; (ii) an

index that identifies positions of the annotations in the subsequent version of the document; (iii)

a change detection value for detecting revisions to: (A) the subsequent version of the document

or (B) a corresponding annotated portion of the subsequent version of the document; and (iv) a

versioning policy attribute referencing one of the defined set of annotation policies dictating how

annotations made for the current version of the document are carried forward to one or more

subsequent versions of the document; and…determining, by operation of one or more computer

processors, whether the annotations in the current version of the document are to be carried

forward to the subsequent version of the document; and upon determining that the annotations

are to be carried forward, carrying the annotations forward to the subsequent version of the

document", in combination with the other claimed limitations. Independent claims 32 and 37

recite similar limitations as claims 25 and 9 and are therefore allowed. Dependent claims are

allowed for being dependent to an allowed claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for

Allowance".

Contact Information

10.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL PHAM whose telephone number is (571)272-3924. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

        If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

        Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. P./   /John R. Cottingham/

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